I. Animal Welfare Requirements

General: The contractor and all subcontractors must have an approved technical proposal that addresses or includes the following requirements.

- A. The contractor must ensure that any facility that harvests animals for this program has a:
 - 1. Mission Statement on Animal Handling that is distributed to all employees and conspicuously displayed at the premises.
 - 2. Training program on Animal Welfare that:
 - a. is provided to all employees interacting with animals;
 - b. covers Chapter 2: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning 7 Core Criteria of the AMI *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2007 Edition*;
 - c. is conducted no less frequently than once a year for each designated employee; and,
 - d. has signed documentation from each employee upon successful completion of training and that is confirmed by a signature of the designated trainer.
 - 3. Written policy in-place and enforced that precludes non-ambulatory animals on the harvest facility premises. In the event that animals become non-ambulatory at any time while present at the harvest facility, a written protocol is in place to humanely euthanize the animal and appropriately dispose of the carcass in a timely manner through contracted services or other means.
 - 4. Written quality management plan to implement the provisions of Chapter 2: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning 7 Core Criteria of the AMI *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2007 Edition*, found at the following link: http://www.animalhandling.org/ht/d/sp/i/1752/pid/1752
 - a. The scope of this audit program will ensure proper animal handling techniques are conducted from the time the transportation conveyance enters the facility's premises through the stunning and exsanguination processes of the animal.
 - b. This program will be audited by an entity accredited by AMS. The accreditation of the firms will be conducted by the Audit, Review and Compliance Branch through the **LS ISO Guide 65 Program.**

- c. Program Evaluation and Eligibility
 - 1) The AMS accredited auditing firm must conduct audits within the following format:
 - a.) Audited firms must pass each of the 7 core criteria each time an audit is performed
 - b.) A scoring of acceptable or higher for Core Criteria 1-5 must be attained.
 - c.) Core Criteria 6 and 7 must be fully compliant for Acceptable rating.
 - 2) Initial audit must be performed prior to award of contracts.
 - 3) If an audit is failed for any of the 7 core criteria, the entity is unable to provide product until such time that corrective and preventative actions are approved by the Contracting Officer, implemented and proven effective.
 - 4) Audit Frequency and Status:
 - a.) STANDARD Until four consecutive successfully passed audits are attained, an audit must be conducted within 3 months of the previous audit.
 - b.) MONTHLY If at any time an audit identifies any of the 7 core criteria not meeting the pass requirements while in the STANDARD phase, auditing will be required to be conducted on a monthly basis once corrective and preventative actions have been approved by the Contracting Officer, implemented and proven effective. This schedule will be for a period of time until four successive audits are found to meet the pass requirements of the AMI Guidelines; at which time audits shall be conducted on the STANDARD basis.
 - c.) If four successfully conducted audits are sequentially completed within a one year period while in STANDARD auditing phase, the facility may move to a SEMI-ANNUAL audit basis.
 - d.) SEMI-ANNUAL Semi-annual audits may continue until such time that a failed audit is reported or a period of greater than six months has elapsed without any audits being performed; at which time the audits must resume as described for STANDARD audits.
 - e.) The Contracting Officer can declare an Animal Welfare Program out of compliance at any time.